

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES HUNDREDS OF REFURBISHED BICYCLES HEADED
TO LESS FORTUNATE CHILDREN**

Prison Inmates Volunteer Time to Brighten Holidays With Bicycles

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that about 300 girls and boys will be doing some pedal pushing this holiday season thanks to a bicycle refurbishing project at two state prisons. Inmates at the N.C. Department of Correction facilities have volunteered their time to tune up the bikes as a way to give back to their communities.

“Many children will have a brighter holiday because of this program,” said Easley. “It also plays an important role in the rehabilitation of inmates, who are gaining skills and providing hundreds of less fortunate children with a special gift this holiday season.”

Inmates at Marion Correctional Institution refurbished 225 bicycles while inmates at Gates Correctional Center have repaired about 500 bikes this year. Some new bicycles with minor defects are donated by retail stores, and used bicycles are donated by residents in local communities. The inmates repair broken parts, sometimes using replacement parts from bicycles that cannot be fixed, and spruce up all the bikes so they look like new. McDowell Technical Community College Auto Body Shop and The Bicycle Ministry in Gates County put on a fresh coat of paint.

Inmates involved in the project volunteer time at the prisons when they are not working their full-time jobs or assigned to vocational or educational programs. Inmates at the Gates Correctional Center have been refurbishing bicycles for about three years. Marion inmates started refurbishing bicycles for the first time last spring.

Through local community partnerships, organizers ensure that the bicycles are given to children who most need them. Gates Correctional Center partners with The Bicycle Ministry, which donates finished bicycles to the Angel Tree Program, Toys for Tots, Gates County Public Schools, Gates County Social Services and area churches. Marion Correctional Institution partners with “Wheels of Love,” which is headed up by Keep McDowell Beautiful, as well as with local government agencies, civic organizations and businesses.

For additional information, visit the N.C. Department of Correction website at www.doc.state.nc.us.

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